

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House of Representatives and Senate met in Joint Session to receive the President's State of the Union message.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S833–S908

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 257–271, S. Res. 34–35, and S. Con. Res. 9. **Page S886**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 34, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. Res. 35, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. **Page S886**

Measures Passed:

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 39, providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page S908**

Nomination: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Alberto R. Gonzales, of Texas, to be Attorney General. **Pages S834–73**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination following 2 hours of morning business on Thursday, February 3, 2005. **Page S908**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held tonight, Wednesday, February 2, 2005, at 9 p.m. **Pages S907–08**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on February 2, 2005; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–2) **Pages S878–81**

Messages From the House: **Pages S881–82**

Measures Referred: **Page S882**

Executive Communications: **Pages S882–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S886–87**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S887**

Additional Statements: **Pages S878–S907**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S907**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:15 a.m., and adjourned at 10:07 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Thursday, February 3, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S908.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS ACT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the U.S. Tsunami Warning System, and S. 50, to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program, after receiving testimony from Senators Frist and Landrieu; John H. Marburger, III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Brigadier General John J. Kelly, USAF (Ret.), Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Charles G. Groat, Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director, National Science Foundation; Roger A. Hansen, Alaska Earthquake Information Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Eileen L. Shea, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Daniel T. Cox, Oregon State University College of Engineering, Corvallis.

CLEAR SKIES ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 131, to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, to provide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program, after receiving testimony from James L. Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality; Brian Houseal, Adirondack Council, Albany, New York; John D. Walke, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York, New York; and Abraham Breehey, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and Helpers, Fairfax, Virginia.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Committee on Finance: Committee held a hearing to examine the long term outlook for social security, focusing on economic, budgetary, and programmatic perspectives, and the aging of the population of the United States, receiving testimony from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office; and Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 34) authorizing expenditures by the Committee.

Also, committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 109th Congress and announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development: Senators Alexander (Chairman), Gregg, Burr, Isakson, DeWine, Ensign, Hatch, Sessions, Dodd, Harkin, Jeffords, Bingaman, Murray, Reed, and Clinton.

Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness: Senators Burr (Chairman), Gregg, Frist, Alexander, DeWine, Ensign, Hatch, Roberts, Kennedy, Dodd, Harkin, Mikulski, Bingaman, Murray, and Reed.

Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety: Senators Isakson (Chairman), Alexander, Burr, Ensign, Sessions, Roberts, Murray, Dodd, Harkin, Mikulski, and Jeffords.

Subcommittee on Retirement Security and Aging: Senators DeWine (Chairman), Isakson, Hatch, Sessions, Roberts, Mikulski, Jeffords, Bingaman, and Clinton.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Michael Chertoff, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Corzine and Lautenberg, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

ASBESTOS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine FELA issues relating to asbestos, focusing on asbestos-related diseases, other dust diseases, and development of legislation to establish a trust fund to compensate workers with asbestos-related diseases, including the Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution (FAIR) Act, after receiving testimony from Edward Becker, Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Laura Welch, Center to Protect Workers Rights, Silver Spring, Maryland; Michael B. Martin, Maloney, Martin, and Mitchell, LLP, Houston, Texas; David Weill, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver; Lester Brickman, Yeshiva University Cardozo School of Law, New York, New York; Paul E. Epstein, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Radnor; Paul R. Hoferer, BNSF Railway Co., Fort Worth, Texas, on behalf of the Association of American Railroads; Donald F. Griffin, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Washington, D.C.; and Theodore Rodman, Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

COMMITTEE FUNDING RESOLUTION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee approved for reporting an original resolution (S. Res. 35) authorizing expenditures by the Committee.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.